



**To: CINMS Advisory Council**

**From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative**

**Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 5/18/05**

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on May 18, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt (SB Channelkeeper); Jim Knowlton (Ocean Futures); and Deborah McArdle (non-voting member). Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Sara Polgar (EDC intern), Alison Eastley (EDC intern), Donna Meyers (Sanctuary West Coast Regional Water Quality Protection Coordinator), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission). CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Alison Chen (intern).

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made.

Announcements: (1) Ocean Film Festival, May 22; (2) EDC Annual Auction and Environmental Hero Awards event, June 5.

## **II. WATER QUALITY**

Sara Polgar presented the draft section of our "Water Quality Needs Assessment" pertaining to the existing status of Research & Monitoring. We had a thorough discussion of research & monitoring efforts focusing on non-point source pollution from the Islands, small vessel traffic, large vessel traffic, anthropogenic marine debris, ocean dumpsites, wrecks, hydrocarbons, oil production, point source pollution, non-point source pollution from mainland, harmful algal blooms. At our next meeting on June 13 we will discuss the final report sections pertaining to Public Outreach & Education, and gaps and recommendations.

## **III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES**

Mike provided an update regarding the extension of marine reserves into the federal portion (three to six miles around the Islands) of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has been consulting with

the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and intends to offer the PFMC the opportunity to draft regulations. The PFMC and NOAA Fisheries have instead requested an analysis comparing the application of the Sanctuary Act versus the Magnusson Stevens Act to this issue. The CWG suggested that the SAC send a letter to NOAA reminding the agency of its commitment to the existing State/Sanctuary process to complete the implementation of marine reserves.

#### **IV. □ MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mike also provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The draft plan and Environmental Impact Statement are being reviewed by National Ocean Service attorneys. The Sanctuary hopes to release the draft plan and EIS in July.

#### **V. □ □ OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION**

- A. □ □ Federal Oil Leases - Linda announced that the federal oil lease suspensions will be considered by the California Coastal Commission. The hearing is currently scheduled for June 9, but may be continued to August.
- B. □ □ LNG – Mike Murray handed out the written summary from the public forum sponsored by the CINMS and the Ventura League of Women Voters. Linda announced that the Coast Guard sent a second request for additional information from the Cabrillo Port project applicant. Accordingly, the project is still on hold.
- C. □ □ Aquaculture - Greg reported that the Army Corps of Engineers appears to be the lead agency for the Chevron/Hubbs project, and that various agencies have requested additional information.
- D. □ □ Upcoming SAC items of discussion - At the May 20 SAC meeting, there will be a couple reports following up on prior recommendations regarding acoustics, as well as presentations regarding the status of the Biogeography Study and the proposal to construct a Sanctuary education center at UCSB.

**NEXT MEETING: June 13, 2005, at EDC.**